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tion that the Indians had a more familiar knowledge of copper than merely as a material, ready-wrought, which they could only procure through barter with far distant tribes.

There is yet another feature which should be briefly dwelt upon. Among the fragments, so-called, of hammered copper, are several which have every appearance of being unfinished objects. One is, I think, intended for a finger ring, such as those from Ohio, described by Professor Putnam; and another strongly suggests those curious large ear-rings of which that author found so many specimens in recent mound explorations.

It would appear, then, from an examination of the copper objects found in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, that the weight of probability is strongly in favor of their home manufacture; and the similarity of the forms to those taken from areas where mounds occur is another fact in favor of the rapidly growing impression that the builders of these earth-works and the Indians of the coast were essentially one people.

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EDITORS' TABLE.

EDITORS: A. S. PACKARD AND E. D. COPE.

— Just and courageous criticism is necessary to the maintenance of excellence in all departments of human activity. An indisposition to submit to it on the one hand and a fear to exercise it on the other, are sure indications of the weakness or decay of an important element of character. Even unfair criticism, bad though it be, is better than none, as it gives indication of life, and is sure to be itself corrected in the end. The attempt to suppress criticism is an unwise proceeding, which will react on its authors. It is better to "make a clean breast," if need be; and if facts do not require it, this also can be made plain. The force of just criticism is not weakened by suppression, but is rather increased in energy; while the expression of it draws the fire and silences the gun of the critic. It is a great error to confound criticism on behalf of the truth with personal hostility, yet it is an error by no means rare. To occupy a perfectly judicial attitude towards our own productions requires some moral elevation, which all men do not attain to. Unjust criticism, indeed, is ground for complaint against the critic.

Hence if the critic deserve the name, justice only will be his infallible guide.

People of sensibility and refinement shrink from controversy; and the enervated and dishonest endeavor to avoid it altogether. But it cannot be escaped without a total withdrawal from the field of action, or an attainment of perfection such as rarely falls to human lot. In the scientific world all the aspects of this question come before us from time to time. We meet the sometimes brutal vigor of German truth-telling, contrasted with the dexterous fencing of French elegance and skill. We meet with inexcusable rashness or misrepresentation on the one hand, and with subservient cowardice or fulsome adulation on the other. In our own country science is none too strong in criticism. With here and there healthy exceptions we have a good deal of paralysis in this direction. In a few quarters the indisposition to accept fair criticism is marked. But there is enough virility in our scientific community to accustom such weak brethren to this one of the phases of "the struggle for existence," by administering more criticism in judicious quantities so long as their cases may seem to require it.

— If the bureaus of the Government would send their return receipt with or in the publications they issue, every one concerned would be greatly accommodated. The return receipts would then be promptly returned, whereas as now sent at another time, it requires time and trouble to identify the package referred to, which sometime results in a failure to return the receipt as desired.

— We are sorry to see our cotemporary *Mind in Nature* admitting to its columns articles like that of Professor Piper on evolution. If the author had spent his time in studying field mice, or garter-snakes, or trout, or minnows, he would have learned to know something of the subject on which he writes so fluently.

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RECENT LITERATURE.

DE CANDOLLE'S *ORIGIN OF CULTIVATED PLANTS.¹—Two years ago the French edition of this book made its appearance, and was favorably received and noticed by the botanical world. It

¹ *International Scientific Series. Origin of Cultivated Plants.* By ALPHONSE DE CANDOLLE, foreign associate of the Academy of Sciences of the Institute of France, foreign member of the Royal Societies of London, Edinburgh and Dublin, of the Academies of St. Petersburg, Stockholm, Berlin, Munich, &c., &c. New York, D. Appleton & Co., 1, 3 and 5 Bond street. 1885, pp. x, 468.